

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 13 (previously amended): The method of claim 16 wherein the active material is lithium manganese oxide having a breakdown voltage of about 5 volts and said DMAC characterized by absorbing excess energy at a breakdown voltage less than that of said lithium manganese oxide.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for reducing decomposition of an electrolyte solution and for reducing the formation of gaseous constituents in an electrochemical cell, said method comprising including in the electrolyte of said cell a dialkylamide additive, wherein said additive is present in an amount of about up to 10% by weight of the solvent of the electrolyte, whereby said cell having said additive is characterized by a lesser rate of gas formation during cycling of said cell as compared to a similar cell without said additive.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method for reducing decomposition of a lithium salt in an electrochemical cell, said method comprising including in the electrolyte of said cell a dialkylamide additive which neutralizes acid attack of said salt, wherein said additive is present in an amount of about up to 10% by weight of the solvent of the electrolyte.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for preventing breakdown of a lithium metal oxide cathode active material in an electrochemical cell by overcharge to an electrochemical breakdown voltage, said method comprising, including in the electrolyte of said cell DMAC

DMAC(dimethylacetamid ) as an additive, which absorbs excess charge energy at a voltage less than the breakdown voltage of said cathode active material, wherein said DMAC is present in an amount of about up to 10% by weight of the solvent of the electrolyte.